DECEMBER 21, ST. THOMAS, APOSTLE

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St. Thomas, called Didymus, that is "the twin," was probably a Galilean of lowly condition and a fisherman. He was chosen to be one of the apostles in the year 31, as can be determined from the mention of his name in the catalogue of the apostles in St. Matthew. He is reputed to have been slow of understanding and little acquainted with secular learning.

When Jesus was about to go to the neighborhood of Jerusalem in order to raise Lazarus from the dead, the other apostles tried to dissuade Him, lest the Jews stone Him. But in his enthusiastic love St. Thomas exclaimed, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him!" Again, it was at the Last Supper that the Saviour said: "And whither I go you know, and the way you know." To this St. Thomas, burning with an ardent desire to follow the Master said, "Lord, we know not whither Thou goest; and how can we know the way?" To which Our Lord replied with the beautiful words, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the Father but by Me." In the Gospel for today the response of Jesus to the doubt which Thomas had expressed concerning his resurrection is related with the answer of Thomas, "My Lord and my God."

St. Thomas is said to have planted the standard of the cross among the Medes, Persians, and neighboring nations. He is called the Apostle of India. He is said to have been slain for the faith at Calamina in India; and there is a legend to the effect that he was executed by the sword or by a lance.

INTROIT Psalms 138: 17
Mihi autem nimis honorati sunt amici tui, Deus: nimis confortata est principátus eórum. (Ps. 138: 1-2) Dómine, probásti me et cognovísti me: tu cognovísti sessiónem meam et resurrectiónem meam. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Mihi autem nimis honorati sunt amici tui, Deus: nimis confortátus est princípátus eórum.

Thy friends, O God, are made exceedingly honorable: their principality is exceedingly strengthened. (Ps. 138: 1-2) Lord, Thou hast proved me, and known me: Thou hast known my sitting down and my rising up. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Thy friends, O God, are made exceedingly honorable: their principality is exceedingly strengthened.

COLLECT
Da nobis, quæsumus, Dómine, beáti Apóstoli tui Thomæ sollemnitátibus gloriári: ut ejus semper et patrocíniis sublevémur; et fidem cóngrua devotióne sectémur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Grant unto us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, to glory in the solemn feast of Thy blessed Apostle Thomas: that we may ever both be helped by his patronage, and with due devotion follow his faith. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

(Commemoration of Feria)
Éxcita, quæsumus, Dómine, poténtiam tuam, et veni: et magna nobis virtúte succúrre; et per auxílium grátiæ tuæ, quod nostra peccáta præpédiunt, indulgéntia tuæ propitiatiónis accéleret. Qui vivis et regnas, cum Deo Patre in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

O Lord, we beseech Thee, stir up Thy power, and come, and with great might succor us: that by the help of Thy grace that which is hindered by our sins may be hastened by Thy merciful forgiveness. Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

EPISTLE Ephesians 2: 19-22
Fratres: Jam non estis hóspites et ádvenæ: sed estis cives sanctórum et doméstici Dei: superædificáti super fundaméntum Apostolórum et Prophetárum, ipso summo angulári lápide Christo Jesu: in quo omnis ædificátio constrúcta crescit in templum sanctum in Dómino, in quo et vos cœdificámini in habitáculum Dei in Spíritu.

Brethren: You are no more strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the Saints, and domestics of God: built upon the foundation of the Apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone. In Whom all the building being framed together, groweth up into a holy temple in the Lord. In Whom you also are built together into a habitation of God in the Spirit.

GRADUAL Psalms 138: 17-18
Nimis honorati sunt amici tui, Deus: nimis confortátus est princípátus eórum. Dinumerábo eos, et super arénam multiplicábuntur.

Thy friends, O God, are made exceedingly honorable: their principality is exceedingly strengthened. I will number them, and they shall be multiplied over the sand.

LESSER ALLELUIA Psalms 32: 1
Allelúja, allelúja Gaudéte, justi, in Dómino: rectos decet collaudátio. Allelúja

Alleluia, alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye just: praise becometh the upright. Alleluia.

GOSPEL John 20: 24-29
In illo témpore: Thomas, unus ex duódecim, qui dícitur Didymus, non erat cum eis, quando venit Jesus. Dixérunt ergo ei álii discípuli: Vídimus Dóminum. Ille autem dixit eis: Nisi vídero in mánibus ejus fixúram clavórum, et mittam dígitum meum in locum clavórum, et mittam manum meam in latus ejus, non credam. Et post dies octo, iterum erant discípuli ejus intus, et Thomas cum eis. Venit Jesus jánuis clausis, et stetit in médio, et dixit: Pax vobis. Deínde dicit Thomæ: Infer dígitum tuum huc, et vide manus meas, et affer manum tuam, et mitte in latus meum: et noli esse incrédulus, sed fidélis. Respóndit Thomas et dixit ei: Dóminus meus et Deus meus. Dixit ei Jesus: Quia vidísti me, Thoma, credidísti: beáti, qui non vidérunt, et credidérunt.

At that time: Now Thomas, one of the twelve, who is called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him: We have seen the Lord. But he said to them: Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe. And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them. Jesus cometh, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said: Peace be to you. Then he saith to Thomas: Put in thy finger hither, and see my hands; and bring hither thy hand, and put it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. Thomas answered, and said to him: My Lord and my God. Jesus saith to him: Because thou hast seen me, Thomas, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and have believed.

OFFERTORY Psalms 18: 5
In omnem terram exívit sonus eórum: et in fines orbis terræ verba eórum.

Their sound went forth into all the earth; and their words to the ends of the world.

SECRET
Débitum tibi, Dómine, nostræ réddimus servitútis, suppliciter exorántes: ut, suffrágiis beáti Thomæ Apóstoli, in nobis tua múnera tuéáris, cujus honoránda confessióne laudis tibi hóstias immolámus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

We render unto Thee, O Lord, the bounden duty of our service, humbly entreating Thee to guard Thy gifts within us by the prayers of the blessed Apostle Thomas, on the feast of whose blessed martyrdom we offer Thee the sacrifice of praise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

(Commemoration of Feria)
Sacrifíciis præséntibus, quæsumus, Dómine, placátus inténde: ut et devotióni nostræ proficiant et salúti. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

O Lord, we beseech Thee, look down favorably upon these present Sacrifices: that they may profit us both unto devotion and salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

PREFACE OF THE APOSTLES
Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, Te, Dómine, suppliciter exoráre, ut gregem tuum Pastor ætérne, non déseras: sed per beátos Apóstolos tuos contínua protectióne custódias. Ut iisdem rectóribus gubernétur, tuos óperis tui vicários eídem contulísti præésse pastóres. Et ideo cum Ángelis et Archángelis, cum Thronis et Dominatiónibus, cumque omni milítia cæléstis exércitus, hymnum glóriæ tuæ cánimus sine fine dicéntes:

It is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation, to entreat Thee humbly, O Lord, that Thou wouldst not forsake Thy flock, O everlasting Shepherd, but through Thy blessed Apostles wouldst keep it under Thy constant protection; that It may be governed by those same rulers, whom as vicars of Thy work, Thou didst set over it to be its pastors. And therefore with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominations, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, we sing the hymn of Thy glory, saying without end:

COMMUNION John 20: 27
Mitte manum tuam, et cognósce loca clavórum: et noli esse incrédulus, sed fidélis.

Put thy hand and know the place of the nails, and be not incredulous, but believing.

POSTCOMMUNION
Adésto nobis, miséricors Deus: et, intercedénte pro nobis beáto Thoma Apóstolo, tua circa nos propitiátus dona custódi. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Be present with us, O merciful God, and through the intercession of the blessed Apostle Thomas on our behalf, mercifully guard Thy Gifts bestowed upon us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

(Commemoration of Feria)
Sumptis munéribus, quæsumus, Dómine: ut cum frequentatióne mystérii, crescat nostræ salútis effectus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Having received Thy gifts, we beseech Thee, O Lord: that as we frequent this Mystery, so the world of our salvation may advance. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.